

Legal Notice

Comprehensive Five-Year Bond Review for Graymont (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00105)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00105 issued to Graymont Western US, Inc. (Graymont). Graymont's facility and associated disturbances are located approximately 4.5 miles west of Townsend, Montana in Broadwater County in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33, Township 7 North, Range 1 East, and Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, Township 6 North, Range 1 East.

DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$8,619,197 (from \$7,332,650 to \$15,951,847). The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price and equipment rates, additional disturbance area, and inclusion of the railroad loadout facility in the reclamation bond.

The procedure for adjusting bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. The company and the public will have until March 6, 2023, to comment on the proposed bond increase. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company, or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination, may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review. A written request for a hearing must be filed with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, and any related questions should be directed to Eric Dahlgren, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor, Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, by telephone at (406) 444-5245 or by e-mail at edahlgren@mt.gov.